



COON RAPIDS *Connection*

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Meet the New Canine Team

The Coon Rapids Police Department is pleased to introduce the new canine team to the community. Officer Bill Hammes and German Shepherd Billy are the newest members of the canine unit. The "Billys" started on the job in June, after going through intense training. It is purely coincidence that the newest canine team share the same name. Officer Hammes is often called by his nickname, Billy, as his father's name is also Bill. Billy, the German Shepherd, was named by Curt Zbikowski, a generous individual donor, who contributed to the Coon Rapids Crime Prevention's canine fundraising campaign. Zbikowski named the dog Billy in memory of his late father, a local businessman who had a deep appreciation for those working in law enforcement.



Officer Bill Hammes and Billy, the new canine team.

Last fall, the Coon Rapids Crime Prevention Association began raising money to



The canine team visiting with residents at Night to Unite, Aug. 5.

secure a second dog for the Coon Rapids Police Department's canine unit. The community-wide effort included donations from individual donors as well as several businesses and service organizations.

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Fire Station Open House Events

The Coon Rapids Fire Department invites you to attend the fire station open house events on Saturday, October 11. The events are part of Fire Prevention Week (October 5-11), a time when firefighters focus on fire

prevention and share safety messages. Firefighters visit schools to give educational presentations and the Fire Department hosts open house events for the community. This year's safety message is: "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

Open House Event Schedule:

**Saturday, October 11
10 a.m. – Noon**

Fire station 1, 1460 Egret Blvd. Station tours, kitchen fire demonstration

Fire station 2, 1199 121st Ave. Station tours, roll over simulator (learn how seat belts save lives!)

Fire station 3, 2831 113th Ave. Station tours, D.J., North Memorial medical helicopter, and fire extinguisher training

All stations will have cookies, coffee, juice and balloons as well.



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Mayor's Corner

FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

This is officially my last Mayor's Corner article. You have probably heard that I am not running for re-election this fall. I decided it was time to let someone else have a chance at this opportunity, an opportunity I have thoroughly enjoyed for the last 12 years. During my three terms as Mayor, I am proud of how our City Council members have worked together. We helped shape policy, create development along Coon Rapids Boulevard and navigate the waters of budget cuts and the great recession. These are just a few of the accomplishments and challenges. It was not always easy; there were tough choices that had to be made, but I stand behind those choices and firmly believe our city is moving in a direction to be proud of. Great things are happening. Our parks are being renovated, our Home for Generations program has been very successful and our neighborhoods are stronger today thanks to

code enforcement and rental licensing changes. These things came about through the work of many and I am happy to have been part of the process. Now I turn the Mayor's gavel over to someone new as of January 2015, and I wish the elected candidate the very best in their new adventure. It is a great ride; one with many great memories. To all Coon Rapids residents: thanks for your support. Thanks for contacting me when you wanted to discuss an issue and thanks for listening to my response. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Mayor. To my family: thanks for your support as I shared my time with you and the City, attending meetings and obligations that often occurred at various hours of the day. I will never forget my time serving in this elected position and I wish all Coon Rapids residents the very best in the future.

Mayor Tim Howe

City Meetings CALENDAR

(All meetings held at the Coon Rapids City Center unless otherwise noted.)

City Council Meetings

Oct 7, 21, Nov 5, 18 & Dec 2, 16 • 7:00 p.m.

Arts Commission (Note Change)

Oct 21, Nov 18 & Dec 16 • 6:00 p.m.

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Oct 2, Nov 6 & Dec 4 • 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

Oct 16, Nov 20 & Dec 18 • 7:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Oct 13, Nov 10 & Dec 8 • 6:30 p.m.
Public Works Garage

Planning Commission

Oct 16, Nov 20 & Dec 18 • 6:30 p.m.

Safety Commission

Nov 13 • 7:15 p.m.

Sustainability Commission

Oct 16, Nov 20 & Dec 18 • 6:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed:

November 11 • November 27 & 28
December 24 & 25 • January 1, 2015

Schedule subject to change. Contact the staff liaison at 763-755-2880 to confirm.

Public notices are published in the City's official newspaper, The Anoka County UnionHerald, and on the website: www.coonrapidsmn.gov

Watch city programming on Cable Channel 16!

City Council

Mon & Fri - 7 p.m.
Tues & Wed- 6 a.m., Noon, 7 p.m.
Sat - 6 a.m., Noon

Planning Commission

Mon & Fri - 6 a.m., Noon

City Council Comments

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sun
5 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5 p.m., 11 p.m.

City Connections or Home for Generations Special

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri
5:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.,
11:30 p.m.

2014 COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL



Mayor

Tim Howe

763-755-8850

thowe@coonrapidsmn.gov

COUNCILMEMBERS



Ward 1

Denise Klint

763-576-8488

dklint@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 2

Ron Manning

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Ward 3

Paul Johnson

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Ward 4

Jerry Koch

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Ward 5

Bruce Sanders

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At Large

Steve Wells

763-323-4984

swells@coonrapidsmn.gov

City Parks and Trails Update

City staff and Council have been busy over the summer, planning and preparing for major park renovations to several of the City's parks. The renovations are possible thanks to a park bond, approved by voters in 2013. Some neighborhood parks have already been renovated this summer. Here is an update of what's happening at several city parks.

Riverview Park – 2420 105th Ave.

Construction is underway at this park. New enhancements include expanded parking, a warming house with bathrooms, tennis court, half court basketball, playground equipment, picnic shelter and trails. Construction should be completed by spring of 2015. Access points to the park will be on 105th Avenue. The current access point on Uplander Street will be closed off as part of the renovation plan.

Please note: Due to construction at Riverview Park, the skating rink and warming house will NOT be available for the 2014-2015 season.

Sand Creek Park – 1008 Northdale Blvd.

The City Council approved the final concept that will serve as the basis for developing detailed design and construction plans for Sand Creek Park. Park renovations include a completely new layout of the complex to bring it up to modern athletic field standards. Some additional highlights include re-arranged parking and fields, new concession buildings, new football/lacrosse fields, enhanced trails with connections to the nearby neighborhood, new playground areas, two hockey rinks with

open skate areas and energy efficient lighting. Construction at this park will begin in the summer of 2015. Due to the construction, the 4th of July celebration will not occur at Sand Creek Park in 2015. The City Council has decided to permanently move the celebration out of Sand Creek Park. In 2015, the community event will take place on the property near the Coon Rapids Ice Center, located along Coon Rapids Boulevard. The parade route will also change from its current path along Northdale Boulevard, traveling instead along parts of Mississippi Boulevard. More details about the 4th of July changes will be published in the 2015 City newsletters as well as on the City website, social media and cable television.

Peppermint Stick Park -11480 Raven Street

A new playground structure was installed at this park in August. The old playground equipment was donated to "Kids Around the World", an organization that renovates the equipment for use in underprivileged parts of the world. New trails will be paved in mid-October.



Sunrise Pond Park -125 124th Lane

This park has new benches, installed by Eagle Scouts. A retaining wall and picnic shelter were also added. City staff will also be working on irrigation and turf this fall.

Boulevard Park – 11000 Crooked Lake Blvd.

This brand new park has been graded and seeded to establish turf on the site. This area will be the new location for the 4th of July carnival. Future improvements are also planned for the site which include play structures, an amphitheater and possible splash pad. See the concept plan on the City's website.

Trail Updates

The 85th Avenue Trail will be completed in 2015. This trail will connect Springbrook Nature Center with Kennedy Park, and will allow access to Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park.

Wilderness Park Trail will be completed in 2015. This will connect the trail from 121st Avenue by Fire Station 2 to Avocet & Main Street.

A new trail will be constructed in 2016, linking **Sand Creek Park to Moor Park**. This project is possible thanks to a \$115,000 DNR grant.

Gaps will be filled in and the deteriorating trail will be replaced along **Coon Rapids Boulevard** (on the west side) in late 2015/2016.

2015 Proposed City Budget

The City Council has adopted the preliminary levy. Final approval of the budget and levy will take place after a public meeting held in December. Property owners will receive notice of the hearing and property tax impacts in November. The preliminary levy can be reduced at that time but not increased.

The 2015 Budget assumes continued levels of service with some additional enhancements. The Park Improvement Fund includes \$6.7 million for the first phase of park improvements authorized by voters in 2013. The Water Fund includes \$3.1 million to replace water mains where needed in street reconstruction areas. Other budget highlights include continued aggressive street maintenance, capital equipment replacement as well as continued emphasis on code enforcement and neighborhood reinvestment initiatives.

The proposed City tax levy for 2015 is \$24,260,690 as compared to \$22,879,026 in 2014.

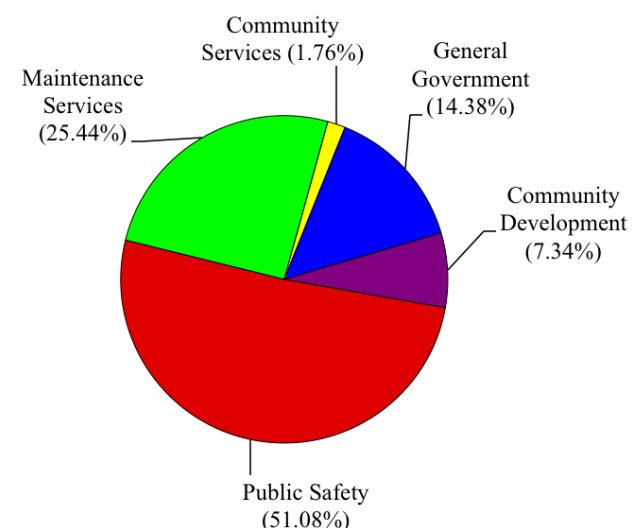
An estimated impact on benchmark homes is as follows:

	Market Value		City Taxes	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Home 1	97,300	80,700	305	241
Home 2	150,100	129,700	560	495
Home 3	187,700	164,200	741	673
Home 4	205,000	187,000	825	791
Home 5	273,100	245,600	1,154	1,095
Home 6	377,600	333,500	1,658	1,550

The entire 2015 proposed budget can be viewed on the City's website as well as other information about the budget: www.coonrapidsmn.gov



General Fund Expenditures by Program 2015 Budget



2014 Election Update

Absentee voting for the General Election begins on September 19. Voters in Coon Rapids who wish to cast their absentee ballots in person may do so at Coon Rapids City Center, 11155 Robinson Drive between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Coon Rapids City Center will be open on Saturday, November 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for absentee voting and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 3.

The following City candidates will be on the ballot for the November 4 General Election. For Mayor: Jerry Koch and Ron Manning. For Ward

3 Councilmember: Wade Demmer and Ethan S. Yang. For Ward 5 Councilmember: Brad Johnson and Valerie Weaver. The League of Women Voters will be conducting a candidates' forum at Coon Rapids City Center on September 29, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

For election results and voter information related to the General Election, please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us, visit the City's website or contact the City Clerk's office at clerk@coonrapidsmn.gov or 763-767-6493.



Advisory Commission Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in a volunteer opportunity? Participating in a city commission may be the perfect fit for you! Citizen volunteer commissions advise the City Council on a variety of issues and are an important part of the community. Attendance at a monthly meeting is required. Each January, the Council makes appointments for three year terms unless otherwise noted and current Commissioners are eligible for reappointment. Applications are kept on file should vacancies occur throughout the year.

The City currently has openings on the following commissions:

- Arts – promote and present cultural activities
- Board of Adjustment and Appeals – consider variances and appeals to the zoning code
- Charter – reviews and recommends amendments to the city charter

Other City commissions include:

- Historical – monitor matters of historical significance
- Parks and Recreation – maintain comprehensive park plan for park development
- Planning – review issues involving zoning, the Comprehensive Plan and land use
- Safety – review public safety issues
- Sustainability – research ideas for sustainable living
- Civil Service – deals with employment decisions regarding Police and Fire personnel

If you are interested in being considered for one of these commissions, call 763-767-6493 or download an application from the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov

CTN Studios Wins National Awards

CTN Studios programming has once again received national honors. The Alliance for Community Media recently recognized CTN Studios as the winner of two first place National Hometown Awards for community TV programs. The winning programs are "Live Prep Football: Blaine at Coon Rapids" for the Sports Coverage (professional) category and "Sportsnight" for the Entertainment and Arts (professional) category. There were almost 1,000 total entries nationwide!



Rental Property Information

Do you own a rental property in Coon Rapids? This is a reminder that all rental properties (even single-family homes and townhomes) must be licensed and inspected by the City. Information and application materials can be found on the City's website or by calling a Housing Inspector at 763-767-6575.

Vacant Property Reporting

If you believe there is a vacant property in your neighborhood, please call the City to report it. A City Inspector will visit the property, attempt to shut off the water to reduce the chance of freezing pipes this winter and flooding in the home, and work with the bank or property owner to resolve any property issues. Please do not enter the home yourself!

Report any vacant properties or issues taking place at a vacant home to the City at 763-767-6517.

Townhome Forums

The City of Coon Rapids hosts Townhome Forums throughout the year to provide helpful information to townhome owners and property managers. Guest speakers are brought in to talk about a wide range of topics specific to townhome associations. These events have become increasingly popular over the years and recent topics have included: financial reserves, foreclosures, allowing rental units in associations, homeowners insurance and protecting vacant units. These meetings are free and open to the public.

If you would like to receive invitations for future Townhome Forum meetings or would like to read about past topics and related handouts, please visit the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/housing/townhomes.

Fall Yard Work Tips

Fall is here, and while it is a beautiful time of year, it also means a lot of yard work for homeowners! Instead of bagging up all of your leaves, another option to reduce your workload is to use a mulching lawn mower to mulch leaves into your yard. It is less time intensive than raking and the shredded leaves act as a natural fertilizer during the fall.

Fall/Winter is the best time of year to prune your trees because branches are easy to see, diseases

cannot be spread, and there is minimal stress to the tree! Pruning when the tree is young saves money. Removing small branches is fairly easy compared with waiting until the limbs are large, when pruning can be costly and a bigger risk to the tree. If you do have a large tree that needs pruning, remember to hire a tree service that is licensed with the City. A current list of licensed tree services is available on the City website.

Fall is also the perfect time for buckthorn removal. Buckthorn is an aggressive plant that is taking over many areas, harming the growth of native plant species. In late October and early November, the plant is easy to see; the green stands out when most other plants are brown and entering the dormant phase. The City owns four weed wrenches which are very effective tools in removing buckthorn. Residents can borrow the City's weed wrenches at no cost by contacting Tom Schibilla, City Forester, at 763-767-6455. Schibilla is also available to schedule a site visit and discuss control options on your property. If you do remove buckthorn from your property, you can place it at the curb and the City's tree contractor will pick it up free of charge.

While you are tending to your yard, take a



moment to sweep or rake leaves and branches out of the street in front of your house. If left in the street, the debris can clog storm drains, contributing to localized flooding.

Dispose of leaves by composting them in your yard, bringing them to your community compost facility or bag them up for curbside pick-up. Keep leaves and yard waste out of the regular garbage, and never dump them in wetlands or buffer areas – it is illegal!



Tree Pruning by Xcel Energy

Residents who live in the southern portion of the city may see crews from Xcel Energy pruning trees this fall. Crews are expected to be in the area sometime beginning in October to prune trees around the company's equipment. This is required to maintain proper tree clearance and minimize power outages per the National Electric Safety Code.

The tree pruning area includes neighborhoods near the Fridley border and along the Mississippi River. To see a more detailed map with your neighborhood, visit the City website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

Residents will be notified of the tree pruning in the affected areas by automated phone call. Workers may need access to private property to remove tree branches near equipment. Crews will prune trees that, in its judgment, may cause an interruption in service, endanger the company's electric lines or present a safety hazard.



Recreational Fires

A REMINDER:

You cannot burn leaves or other household debris in your recreational fire. Only clean, dry wood can be used. While recreational fires are allowed without a permit, they are subject to specific City regulations.

More information and guidelines regarding recreational fires can be found on the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/fire/recreationalfires.



STREET SWEEPING

City crews will be out sweeping streets in September, October and November. Please keep all leaves, grass clippings and other debris out of the streets.

Our crews thank you for your help!

Meet the New K-9 Team...Continued from page 1

The Coon Rapids Police Department would like to thank hundreds of individuals who donated to the fundraising campaign as well as the following groups for their fundraising efforts: Coon Rapids Crime Prevention Association, Coon Rapids Lions, Coon Rapids American Legion, Coon Rapids VFW, Coon Rapids Rotary, Coon Rapids Fire Department, Coon Rapids Police Association, Coon Rapids Kiwanis, Coon Rapids Super Seniors Club, Rivertek Medical Systems, Coon Rapids

Potbelly Sandwich Shop and the Coon Rapids Mat Bandits Wrestling Club.

The Coon Rapids Police Department would also like to extend a very special thank you to Curt Zbikowski, who made the very generous donation in honor of his late father, Billy, the namesake of the dog.

Officer Bill Hammes and Billy will serve our community for many years to come, assisting with a variety of police activities and investigations.

Road Construction Updates

For the last several months, the City has been working to reconstruct over nine miles of streets. These projects have included everything from removing and replacing pavement to repairing and replacing storm water, sanitary sewer and water main facilities. The City has also been working to maintain over 17 miles of roadway as part of a sealcoating process.

Local construction project updates:

- Projects 14-1, 14-3, 14-4: These projects are substantially complete.
- Project 14-2: (Round Lake Boulevard between 115th Avenue NW and approximately 450 feet south of Main Street)

Stage 1 of construction is complete. The contractor is currently working on stage 2 and expects work to be complete by the end of October. Round Lake Boulevard is closed to thru-traffic during this time. Local businesses near 119th Avenue remain open during construction. Weekly updates will continue to be posted on the City's website until the contractor reaches substantial completion and the roadway is fully reopened to traffic.

The City's contractors for each of these projects will continue to be working on wrapping up and completing any remaining items throughout the fall. Residents should be aware that the contractor will be responsible to provide additional topsoil to fill low spots as well as remedial seeding for any areas disturbed by construction where adequate lawn growth has not taken place. Remedial seeding will take place either this fall or during the spring of 2015.

Work crews ask motorists for their continued patience during the remaining portions of construction. Please obey the posted work zone speed limits and follow the recommended detours, both of which are designed with public safety in mind.



Call the City Before Your Townhome Road Project

Past sealcoating road projects in private developments (townhome associations) have raised some important discussions over the specifications followed on those projects. Although the roads within these developments are considered private (and are maintained by the association), the utilities under the roads are public and are maintained by the City. During such projects, the City needs to preserve access to such utilities. There have been instances of contractors sealcoating over the top of manholes, water main valves and catch basins. Once this occurs, it is very difficult to clean them off and access is greatly hindered. This limits the City's ability to react in emergency situations, in addition to creating potential storm water concerns.

To combat these concerns, the City asks to be contacted whenever road maintenance/and or improvements are being planned on private drives in townhome associations. This contact allows the City to communicate where our infrastructure is located and whether there are any issues that should be addressed prior to or in conjunction with a project. Contacting the City also allows the ability to provide contractors with standard specifications to make sure the City's infrastructure is protected. The City would like to issue a permit for the work to ensure that the contractor is licensed, bonded and insured. The contractor would not be charged for this permit; it solely allows the City to distribute appropriate information that the contractors must abide by. Performing the project in this way allows for the most desirable outcome and ensures that the final product is completed to everyone's satisfaction, without further complications and disruptions. If your association is planning a project, call Public Works staff at 763-767-6462.

Winter Parking Ban Starts November 1

A reminder that the winter parking ban is in effect in the City of Coon Rapids beginning November 1. Vehicles cannot be parked on a public street:

- Between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am between November 1 and April 1; or
- Anytime there is a snowfall with three or more inches accumulated on the ground, except where the street has been plowed from curb to curb.

Vehicles in violation will be issued a ticket and may be towed. Thanks for your compliance!

Snowplow Hotline:

Get updated snowplowing information this winter by calling 763-755-2880, menu option 3. New messages are recorded after snow events of three inches or more. Information is also posted on the City's Facebook page.

Coon Rapids Dam Construction – Almost Done!

Construction work continues on the Hennepin County side of the river, which includes the construction of a temporary cofferdam, the installation of four new spillway gates and the refurbishment of the existing control gate. The work is expected to be substantially complete by the end of the year. The walkway over the dam remains closed until construction is complete, but both Visitor Centers continue to be open regular business hours.

The improvements being made to the Coon Rapids Dam are meant to inhibit the spread of invasive carp. The \$16 million renovation project was approved by the Minnesota State Legislature in 2011. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Three Rivers Park District entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) on January 19, 2012. The JPA clarifies that the DNR will become solely responsible for the reconstruction of the dam, for management of the dam as a fish barrier and for setting the pool operation parameters. The Three Rivers Park District remains responsible for routine maintenance and daily operation of the dam and is the owner of the dam.



New spillway gates at the Coon Rapids Dam

Your Lawn can Prevent Water Pollution!

Your lawn and pet care impact our local waters! The bacteria in pet waste, sediment from your lawn, and salt in the winter can pollute the water running down your driveway into the street and into our creeks and ponds! Springbrook, Pleasure, Sand, and Coon Creek are already not meeting state standards for aquatic life and E.coli bacteria. And, many metro waters are considered polluted for chlorides.

What can you do? Have a healthy lawn!

- Keep grass clippings off the street and all paved areas. Keep them on your lawn or bring to a compost site.
- Aerate your lawn with a core aerator by mid-September so water can reach the roots easily.

- If you fertilize, wait until you have aerated.
- Mulch leaves with your lawnmower to return nutrients to the soil, and save on fertilizer.
- Dog waste contains lots of bacteria, so dispose of it properly.
- During the winter, use sand for traction rather than salt, and sweep up excess!

For winter salt alternatives:

<http://moourl.com/cleanwatertip8>

Contact Dawn at Coon Creek Watershed District if you are interested in a Lawn Care Management for Clean Water workshop in 2015. 763-755-0975 or ddoering@cooncreekwd.org



Photo by www.pooperscooper.org

Changes to Water and Sewer Rates

Residents will notice a \$2.00 increase in the water base service fee from \$10.00 to \$12.00 effective July 1, 2014. The rate per gallon remains the same. This was implemented to help cover water operating expenses.

Residential (single and multiple units) per 1,000 gallons:

Tier 1 (first 20,000 gallons):	\$1.70
Tier 2 (20,001 to 80,000 gallons):	\$2.10
Tier 3 (80,001 gallons and above):	\$2.30

Commercial/Industrial Users:	\$1.70
Sprinkling Meters:	\$2.30
Service Charge per Account:	\$12.00

Effective July 1, 2014, the City adopted new fees for sewer rates. Single family homes, for example, will now pay \$23.00 for the base fee plus \$2.85 per 1,000 gallons (minimum \$44.50, maximum \$96.00). For a more detailed explanation of these changes, and to view the complete rate structure, visit the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/utilitybilling.htm.

Fall Sewer Projects

- Project 14-11: This sanitary sewer lining project started in August and is set to wrap up in mid-November. The contractor, Insituform, will be lining 40,336 feet of clay sewer pipe.
- Project 14-12: This project will relocate and install a new wet well, pump station and control panel at sanitary life station #9 (10739 Mississippi Boulevard). Geislinger and Sons, Inc. is the contractor on the project, which is set to wrap up by the end of September.

Revive Your Home with a Home Improvement Loan

Do you have home maintenance needs? Are you spending a fortune on utility bills because of an inefficient furnace or air conditioner? Consider the home improvement loan programs available to you through the City of Coon Rapids. These programs make it possible for homeowners to make improvements that will improve the overall livability of their homes.

The Zero Interest Home Rehabilitation Deferred Loan is a loan program that uses federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. This program is designed to address the burden that low and moderate income families are dealing with as it relates to housing maintenance, deteriorating home conditions and energy use. Residents who meet income guidelines are eligible to receive

up to \$24,999 to improve the overall quality of their homes.

Earlier this year we introduced you to Billie Cassell, who had a deteriorating deck, mold concerns, poor insulation and an inefficient heating and cooling system. By accessing the CDBG funding, Billie was able to create a home that is now safer and more livable, addressing needs on both the interior and exterior of her home.

Zero interest loan funds are still available for low and moderate income households. No monthly payments are required and up to 50 percent of the loan is forgiven if you remain in your home for five years. To learn more about this program and other programs offered, contact the HousingResource™ Center at 651-486-7401 or visit www.gmhchousing.org.



Home loan programs can help you afford a new furnace, just in time for winter!

Home Improvement Resources

Remodeling Advisor Visits offer FREE professional advice to help homeowners plan improvements to their homes – from simple renovations to a dream remodel. Call the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) at 612-335-5856 or visit www.mncee.org.

Home Improvement Loans can help finance any remodeling project. Call the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) at 612-335-5884.

Down Payment Assistance is available through the Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation. Contact Cheryl Bennett at the City of Coon Rapids at 763-767-6422 or cbennett@coonrapidsmn.gov or visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov/downpaymentassistance.htm.



Grant Money Available for Home Improvements

Are you interested in making improvements to your home? Grants, rebates, low interest loans and subsidized architectural design consultations are still available to homeowners interested in doing large remodeling projects. To be eligible for the Home for Generations II program, projects must either add living space to the home or be considered a major remodel (kitchens, bathrooms, moving of walls, etc). Additionally, homes must be owner-occupied and homesteaded.



Maximum Grant: \$5,000

Minimum Project Amount: \$35,000

Rebate: 50% of building permit fees

Financing: 4.5% fixed up to \$50,000

Architectural Consultation: \$25 co-pay

Income Limit: None

Minimum Age of House: 20 years

Availability: First come, first served

Homeowners who increase their home's curb appeal will be awarded a larger grant than those who make only interior or maintenance improvements. For more information or to apply for this program, please contact Kristin at kdegrande@coonrapidsmn.gov or 763-767-6517 or visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov/housing/homeforgenerationsII.htm.

Special Program:

Home for Generations II Remodeling Ideas and Inspiration

Hear from homeowners who have gone through the Home for Generations II program and see their amazing remodeling transformations!

Watch daily on CTN Channel 16:

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri: 5:30 a.m.,
11 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m.

Also watch on the
City of Coon Rapids
YouTube channel!



Business News

FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

Foley Boulevard Station Area Plan

The City of Coon Rapids has been working on a plan for future infrastructure needs and development patterns in the area of the Foley Boulevard Park-and-Ride near Highway 610. This planning project will help the City prepare for future infrastructure investments that are planned in the area, including the Northern Lights Express high speed rail, future bus and rail service and possible major road improvements. The plan's recommendations include phased commercial and residential redevelopment in collaboration with property owners, improving connectivity for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and City coordination with Anoka County, MnDOT, and Metro Transit on future transportation investments. The planning project is funded by a \$40,000 grant from the Metropolitan Council. The goal of the grant program is to catalyze development around transit stations. View the latest draft of the plan by visiting the project website at www.foleyblvdstation.com.



FREE Business Advice

The Open to Business program has helped several Coon Rapids residents and business owners by providing business advice ranging from marketing and financial management to leasing and purchasing property.

If you are a Coon Rapids business owner or looking to open a business in the city, you're invited to participate in this FREE opportunity. Business Advisor, Rob Smolund, holds office hours at City Hall for walk-in appointments on the **third Tuesday of each month from 2:00 -**



4:30 p.m. Interested entrepreneurs can also schedule appointments at other times by calling 612-789-7337, ext. 260.

Examples of how Open to Business has helped other clients:

- An existing business owner received advice about real estate issues and expansion plans.
- A resident received help in evaluating his target market and received suggestions on how he could expand his product into new markets.
- A resident received consulting advice that helped her open a beauty salon with a \$1,000 micro grant.
- A commercial property owner learned about better ways to use his property.
- A retail food store owner received help to enhance his merchandising and window displays.

More information about this program can also be found online at www.opentobusinessmn.org.

Schedule Your Business Visit Today

The City of Coon Rapids values its diverse business community and recognizes the importance of maintaining strong relationships with local businesses. To strengthen these connections, the City's Economic Development staff strives to meet with business owners periodically to discuss a variety of topics. These visits allow business owners to raise questions or concerns about City service delivery or other local government matters in an informal setting. The

visits also provide an opportunity for City officials to learn about each business and share information on available resources. Participants in the visits include Economic Development staff, along with the Mayor or a City Council Member if possible. If you would like to schedule a visit, contact the Community Development Department at 763-767-6430 or email econdev@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Other Business News:

- **Rue 21 and Bath & Body Works** stores will be locating in the former Archiver's space in Riverdale.
- **Diggity's Restaurant** recently opened at 133 Coon Rapids Boulevard.
- **Northpoint Church** is moving in at Hanson Boulevard and 108th Avenue.
- **O'Reilly Auto Parts** is opening a new store on Coon Rapids Boulevard, just west of Hanson by CVS.
- **Bayer Interventional** is being acquired by Boston Scientific. The company will stay in its current location in the Evergreen Industrial Park.
- **Rainbow grocery store** in Riverdale has closed. Several prospective tenants are looking at the space.
- Grading and foundation work is underway at **Magnum Trucking**, which will be located on Evergreen Boulevard.

Police News

★ Thank you
★ to everyone who
★ participated in
Night to Unite 2014!



Neighbors Joining Together

Night to Unite helps neighbors get to know each other and build police/community partnerships.



Over 100 parties were registered in the city.

See you again in 2015!

Lowest Crime Rate in 30 Years

According to data from the 2013 Uniform Crime Report, crime in Coon Rapids is at its lowest point in 30 years. 2013 statistics show another seven percent decline in the crime rate from 2012. The number of crimes committed is down in most categories for Part 1 crimes (detailed to the right). In particular, residential burglary is at a historic low point, with a rate below that of Andover, Blaine, Plymouth and Minnetonka. Theft overall is also at a historic low point. Theft from vehicles is the most common type of crime in Coon Rapids and police are pleased to see the statistics go down as well.

Brad Wise, Police Chief says, "Thanks to a great partnership with our community, we can continue to make our city an unwelcome place for criminals. I am happy to see another seven percent decline in our crime rate and I hope to see it go down even further. The public must continue to be the Police Department's eyes and ears in the community; call 911 if you see suspicious activity and together we can continue to keep our community a safe place."

The Uniform Crime Report, produced by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety,

is a reporting tool that is used to track crime around the state. The data is also submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, to allow for crime rate comparisons nationwide.

Breakdown of the Data

The following data shows Part 1 crime statistics for 2013 as compared to 2012 and 2011.

Crime	2013	2012	2011
Murder	0	0	2
Rape	31	14	37
Robbery	15	16	16
Aggravated Assault	48	42	57
Burglary	183	194	254
Larceny (theft)	1530	1663	2361
Motor Vehicle Theft	53	60	57
Arson	7	10	13

(Chart shows actual number of offenses in each category).

Protect Yourself from Phone Scams

The Police Department has recently received several complaints recently of phone scams; strangers calling to say that residents owe money to the IRS or other government agency. The caller often uses threats or intimidation to get the person on the other end of the line to give up personal information or pay fees. **DO NOT FALL FOR THIS SCAM!** If someone asks for bank account information or says you will be arrested unless you give them a PIN number to a loadable money card (GreenDot Money Pack or other), know that this is a scam! If you have any doubts, call and talk to a Police Officer first...before you become a victim!



Fire News

Coon Rapids Fire Department History - The 1980s and 1990s

(Part three of a four part series)

Growing, Growing, Growing

The Coon Rapids Fire Department faced its largest growth challenges in the 1980s and 1990s with a 255% increase in call volumes – a result of a population increase of 72%, a housing increase of 118% and the addition of many services provided. By the end of 1989, run volumes increased to over 2000 runs annually and just a decade later, the Coon Rapids Fire Department was answering 3900 calls annually.

All of this growth sparked discussion of how the Fire Department could expand to meet the City's growing needs. After several years of study and City Council deliberation, the Coon Rapids Fire Department established its three station plan. This plan included the construction of a new station, in addition to the relocation of one of the



Fire Station 1 with new equipment

existing stations and total renovation of the other. Construction of Fire Station 1 on Egret Boulevard began in April 1995, followed by the renovation of Station 3 just a few months later. To round



New Fire Station 2 with equipment

out the development plan, Station 2 was moved to its current location at Xeon Street and 121st Avenue, with all of the work wrapping up by the fall of 1998.

Fire Safety Improvements

Although smoke detectors were required by Code beginning in 1976, given the era during which many homes in the City were built, by the mid-1980s many Coon Rapids homes still did not possess the residential fire safety equipment. But following a house fire in August 1986 in which four people were killed, the Coon Rapids Fire

Department launched a program designed to have a working smoke detector in every home in the city. With the goal of greatly reducing fire related deaths, the Fire Department installed approximately 150 smoke detectors free of charge in a two year period.

Emergency dispatch technology also saw significant improvements during the 1980s,

making responding to emergency fire calls much more streamlined for the Department. Anoka County's 911 system, which responds to all emergency calls in the county, went online December 1, 1983. Today, Anoka County answers 911 calls for over 335,000 Anoka County citizens and provides dispatch services for all 11 law enforcement agencies and 15 fire departments in the county.

Firefighters Fix Gazebo

The gazebo at Sand Creek school now has a new roof thanks to the Coon Rapids Firefighters Union. This community service project provided an opportunity to remove the entire old roof as well as install new decking boards and shingles. Several members of the Union volunteered, along with Coon Rapids Chief Building Official Greg Brady and Lead Mechanic Tim Gallagher. Thanks to the following companies and organizations for making this project possible: ABC Supply, Home Depot, Bauer Services, Coon Rapids Automotive Service and the Coon Rapids Firefighter Union volunteers.



MDA Fill-the-Boot



Thank You!

Thank you to the community for helping firefighters raise \$20,244 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association! The "Fill-the-Boot" campaign, which took place in June at the intersection of Northdale Boulevard and Main Street, was a huge success!

Seniors' Corner

Coon Rapids Senior Services

Has Something for Everyone (55+)

- | | |
|--|---|
| A – AA Meetings | O – Outreach (Blood Drives, Goldentones, Feed My Starving Children, School Supplies, & more) |
| B – Bingo & Bunco! | P – Presentations on Senior Issues |
| C – Chores & More/Senior Companion | Q – Quilting Club |
| D – Defensive Driving Classes | R – Rides to the Center (Bus and Van from Coon Rapids Chrysler) |
| E – Exercise, Yoga, Tai Chi | S – Senior Dining (Daily Meals for \$4.00) |
| F – Friends, both Old and New! | T – Trips Galore |
| G – Game Groups (500, Bridge, Hand & Foot, Pinochle, Cribbage, Chess) | U – Up-to-date Insurance and Tax Help |
| H – Homemade Crafts (Gift Shop Proceeds Go To Charity) | V – Vets Coffee |
| I – Intergenerational Activities | W – Writers and Woodcarvers Clubs |
| J – Joyful Volunteers | X – X-tended Trips |
| K – Knitting and Crocheting, Art, Rubberstamping, Woodcarving, Crafts | Y – Yes! Weekly Blood Pressure Checks |
| L – Lifelong Learning (Spanish, Genealogy) | Z – Zany Parties and Fun Events |
| M – Musical Entertainment | |
| N – Newsletter (Mail, Email, Website or Pickup), plus Facebook | |

Join us!

Call Coon Rapids Senior Services at 763-767-6473 for more information!

Minnesota Safety Council Defensive Driving Courses

By attending a MN Safety Council Defensive Driving Course, individuals 55+ years of age with a valid driver's license can receive a 10 percent automobile insurance discount for three years. Those taking the course for the first time must attend an 8-hour session. Returning drivers can take a 4-hour refresher course. These classes fill up early. Registration and payment must be received 2 weeks prior to the class. Classes take place at the Coon Rapids Senior Center. Call 763-767-6473 to register or get a complete listing of classes.

4-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE: \$20.00

Monday, October 6: 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Monday, October 20: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monday, November 3: 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

8-HOUR COURSE: \$22.00

Mondays, September 15 & 22: 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Mondays, December 1 & 8: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Congratulations!

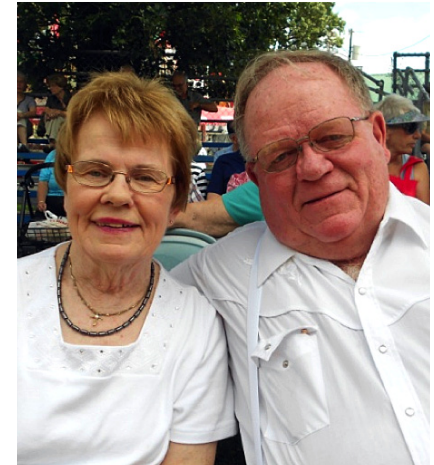
68 Years Strong

Each year, the Coon Rapids Senior Center recognizes couples that have been married for 50 years or more. This year, the top honor went to Dale and Rosemary Gourley, who have been married for 68 years! Rosemary said the couple got married when Dale arrived home from the service and the rest is history. The Gourley's have four children, 14 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren, with several more on the way! Congratulations Dale and Rosemary!



Outstanding Seniors

At the Anoka County Fair in July, Virgil and Marion Rasmussen won the Anoka County Outstanding Senior Awards. The Rasmussens were nominated by Coon Rapids Senior Services for their work as leaders of the Hot Foot Stompers Square Dancing Club that meets at the Senior Center. Virgil and Marion have led the group in many activities including performances at nursing homes, senior living facilities and inter-generational events with fourth graders from Hamilton Elementary School. The club has danced in over 23 states, and even Japan! Congratulations Virgil and Marion!



Parks & Recreation



Practice Your Game at Bunker Hills!

While the course will be open until the snow flies, do not let the snow deter you from practicing your game at Bunker Hills Golf Club! **golfTEC Bunker Hills** offers private, tailored golf instruction for anyone looking to improve their game.



golfTEC is open for private lessons. Call 612-424-9251 or visit bunkerhillsgolf.com

State-of-the-art golf simulators also offer a great place to practice... alone or with friends! Play Pebble Beach or one of 30 other courses. To learn more visit bunkerhillsgolf.com



Sunday Brunch Begins October 5! 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Enjoy a wonderful Sunday Brunch at the Harvest Grill featuring a variety of breakfast items, dinner entrees, fresh fruit, juices, homemade pastries and desserts.



Open for lunch and dinner every day as well as happy hour specials offered from 2 to 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to close.

Bunker Hills Golf Club

12800 Bunker Prairie Drive
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
Golf Shop: 763-755-4141
golfTEC: 612-424-9251
Harvest Grill: 763-755-1234



Sign Up Now for Fall Skating

Fall skating lessons are about to begin at the Coon Rapids Ice Center. Classes are available for figure skaters and hockey players. Classes run for 12 weeks and begin on Saturday, September 20 (10:35 – 11:35 a.m.) and Monday, September 22 (6:10 – 7:10 p.m.). Classes are 30 minutes in length with 30 minutes of practice time. For more information, including detailed course descriptions, visit www.coonrapidsicecenter.com.

Public Skating

Lace up your skates and enjoy the ice during one of our public skating sessions.

Fall & Winter Public Skating event times:

Wednesdays & Fridays - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sundays - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students. Children ages 5 and under skate FREE with a paid admission. Skate rental and sharpening also available.

Boot Hockey

The Coon Rapids Ice Center will be offering a men's (4 on 4) boot hockey league on Wednesday nights on the outdoor refrigerated rink. Leagues will run 10 weeks from December – February including league and playoff games. Look for more information at www.coonrapidsicecenter.com.

Adult Open Hockey

Come play a game on your lunch hour for some great exercise! Tuesdays & Thursdays – 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Coon Rapids Ice Center

11000 Crooked Lake Blvd. • 763-951-7222 • WWW.COONRAPIDSICECENTER.COM



Special Events!

Take part in one of our special Sunday themed skating events coming up this fall and winter. Games, coloring contest and more!

Back to School Skate - September 28

Halloween Skate – October 26

Fall Food-Shelf Skate – November 23

Skate with Santa – December 14

All events take place from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



Skaters Win Awards

Six skaters who train at the Coon Rapids Ice Center and represent the St. Paul Figure Skating Club competed in the 2015 Minnesota State Championships held at Highland Arena August 22-24. There were 233 figure skaters from across the state participating in 19 different divisions. From Left to right: Ashley Pugh, Preliminary Girls, placed fourth in her initial round and advanced to the final round; Lily Zieg, Pre Juvenile Girls, placed first in her initial round and was awarded the Silver Medal. Riley Shore, Novice Ladies, competed short and long program, Rebecca Johnson, Adult Gold; Alicia Frupp, Pre-Preliminary Girls, placed first in her initial round and was awarded the Silver Medal. McKenna Shoberg, Pre Juvenile Girls, placed second in her initial round and advanced to the final round. The skaters will compete in the 2015 US Regional Championships in October.

Parks & Recreation

Winter Recreation

Sign up now for winter activities through one of the youth athletic associations.

- **Coon Rapids Athletic Association** - www.craakids.com
- **Coon Rapids Youth Hockey Association** - www.coonrapids hockey.com
- **Coon Rapids Traveling Basketball Club** - www.coonrapids hoops.org

Anoka-Hennepin Community Education

The City of Coon Rapids works in cooperation with Anoka-Hennepin Community Education to provide youth programming in the City. You can find offerings at: www.anoka.k12.mn.us



Wintercrest Park...
A super place for sledding!
(10300 Woodcrest Drive)



"The Element" Teen Center

(grades 6-12)

11747 Crocus Street
(at Riverwind Park)

Tuesday & Thursday: 3-6 p.m.

Friday: 6-9 p.m.

Come socialize, play games, watch movies and have fun with kids your age in a safe, supervised environment.

FREE! Concessions available for purchase.

Community Connection

Kindergarten Readiness Preschool

The Anoka-Hennepin School District Kindergarten Readiness Preschool is for children who turned four years old by September 1, 2014. Classes meet September 2014 to June 2015, Monday through Thursday, mornings or afternoons for 2 ¾ hours per day.

There is no cost for eligible families who meet income guidelines. Transportation is provided. For more information on locations or to see if your child qualifies, please call 763-433-4650.

Anoka County Head Start Preschool

Head Start is available in Anoka County for income eligible families with children up to age five. There is no cost to families. Families on County Assistance (MFIP), Supplemental Social Security or foster children and families who meet the income eligibility guidelines are eligible for Head Start.

To request an application call 763-783-4300, TTY 763-783-4724, Spanish 763-783-4390

Register Now for Early Childhood Family Education Classes

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFC) offers high-quality programs created to help with parenting efforts. A variety of classes are available for children, from birth to kindergarten as well as classes for parents/grandparents.

- See your child thrive and make new friends.
- Discover activities to help your child learn.
- Strengthen your parenting skills.
- Grandparents are welcome to register for classes with grandchildren, too.

The fall families catalog is available online at www.discovercommunityed.com.



Recycling Review

Seasonal Hours

Please note the change in Recycling Center hours beginning in November.

November-March: Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

April-October: Tuesday and Thursday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Organic Food Waste

Reduce your trash and recycle your food waste!

The Coon Rapids Recycling Center accepts kitchen scraps, discarded leftovers, spoiled food and some paper products as part of its Organic Food Waste Recycling Program. Organic materials **MUST** be brought to the Recycling Center in the approved organic blue bags available at the Recycling Center (small fee applies for bags). If you would like to participate in this program, you must sign up with the Recycling Center by calling 763-767-6485. Open to Coon Rapids residents only.

Recycling Books, DVDs, CDs and Video Games

A company named A Greener Read works to re-purpose books, textbooks, DVDs, CDs and video games in the greenest way possible. The company partners with others to re-use items rather than recycle them. According to the company, "With us, more books end up in readers' hands and less wind up being turned into cardboard boxes".

To donate to this company, the items listed above can be dropped off anytime in the green box outside the gate of the Coon Rapids Recycling Center. Visit www.agreenerread.com for more information.



SUSTAINABILITY TIP

Did you know that residential users consume approximately 85% of the water pumped by the City of Coon Rapids?

What You Can Do

Water conservation at home can be achieved through a number of different means! Using rain barrels, installing low flow fixtures and dual flush toilets, and washing only full loads of laundry are all possible options to conserve water. For more information on how you can reduce your residential water consumption, visit the City's website.

This Sustainability Tip brought to you by the Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission.



Coon Rapids Recycling Center

1831 – 111th Avenue, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

763-767-6485

**Appliance and electronics recycling available
EVERY Saturday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Calendar of Events

October 4	Mattress Recycling (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) Paper Shredding (9 a.m. - Noon)
November 1	Mattress Recycling (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) Paper Shredding (9 a.m. - Noon)
November 11	Recycling Center CLOSED
November 27 & 28	Recycling Center CLOSED
December 6	Mattress Recycling (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) Paper Shredding (9 a.m. - Noon)
December 24 & 25	Recycling Center CLOSED
January 1, 2015	Recycling Center CLOSED

*Furniture re-use events published earlier this year have been canceled. Please use this updated schedule.

Car Seats No Longer Accepted

Due to end market related issues, car seats can no longer be recycled. Car seats should not be used after the expiration date and can be placed in the garbage for your curbside hauler.



Events

2014 Holiday Lighting Contest

Do you enjoy decorating your home for the Holidays? The Coon Rapids Arts Commission will once again be hosting a Holiday Lighting Contest, complete with cash prizes! Why not share your creation with the entire city and enter the Coon Rapids Arts Commission Holiday Lighting Contest!

More information about the contest guidelines as well as an official entry form will be posted on the City's website in mid-November.



Sustainability Workshops

The Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission is offering a series of free workshops designed to promote sustainable living right here in our community!

Monday, September 29: How to Turn your Yard into a Food Producing Paradise

Tuesday, October 7: Local Food for Dinner 365 Days a Year

Monday, October 13: Permanent Raised Beds the Permaculture Way

Monday, October 20: Understanding and Reducing Home Energy Use

Monday, October 27: Kick off meeting for C.S.I. Coon Rapids (the Citizen Sustainability Initiative). Gather with fellow residents to exchange ideas and information that will empower you to live sustainably in the suburbs!

All meetings will take place at the Coon Rapids Civic Center from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. For more information, call the Recycling Center at 763-767-6485 or visit the City's website.

2015 Coon Rapids Performing Arts Series

The Coon Rapids Arts Commission is proud to host the annual "Dessert and Coffee Concert Series" beginning in early 2015. Come out and enjoy a great evening of entertainment along with fabulous dessert and coffee.

Mark your calendars for the 2015 dates:

- **Thursday, January 8** – Gravel Roads (Country)
- **Thursday, February 12** – Straighten Up and Fly Right! (Pop) - An Unforgettable Tribute to Nat King Cole
- **Thursday, March 12** – Locklin Road (Celtic)
- **Thursday, April 9** – Erin Schwab (Cabaret)

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Coon Rapids Civic Center, 11155 Robinson Drive. There are new admission fees this year. Adults are \$8.00, Adults 65+ are \$6.00 and Children 12 and under are \$5.00. \$4.00 off when you buy a 4-concert package for \$28.00.

For more information contact Stephanie Lincoln at 763-767-6432 or email slincoln@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Service Directory

Police and Fire: 911

City Center:

763-755-2880

Assessing:

763-767-6446

Building Inspections:

763-767-6476

Bunker Hills Golf Club:

763-755-4141

CTN Studios: (Cable TV Dept.)

763-767-6525

Civic Center:

763-767-6522

Code Enforcement:

763-767-6470

Coon Rapids Ice Center:

763-951-7222

Engineering Department:

763-767-6465

Fire Administration:

763-767-6429

Job Hotline:

763-767-6597

Planning and Zoning:

763-767-6430

Police Administration:

763-767-6481

Public Works:

763-767-6462

Senior Services:

763-767-6473

Utility Billing:

763-767-6438

Fax:

763-767-6491

General questions:

mail@coonrapidsmn.gov

Newsletter comments & information:

Stephanie Ring

Communications & Mktg Coordinator

763-767-6582

sring@coonrapidsmn.gov

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